

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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February 9, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am pleased to extend a hearty congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I am quite sure you are aware, through your role as Chairman, you are in a unique position to serve the public through developing and supporting policies that protect consumers, support competition, and spur innovation and investment in our nation's communications space.

I am pleased to learn through press reports, you have removed the set-top box proposal from circulation to your fellow commissioners. As you may be aware, from the beginning of this proceeding, I have been focused on the effects of FCC policy on diverse and independent programming. The challenges independent programmers face in gaining distribution for their content must not be overlooked or minimized. I was therefore pleased to see that the Commission moved forward on a proceeding started by Commissioner Clyburn to address the challenges faced by independent programmers.

In furtherance of this goal, I urge you to immediately divert the resources that had been allocated to the set-top box proceeding to finding solutions that fix the problems raised by Commissioner Clyburn. By allocating these resources, I believe the Commission should be able to address those issues quickly. It is my hope that with adequate resources and a laser-like focus, we can have very real expectations that solutions would be proposed by June of this year.

In the meantime, I am extending an invitation to meet with me to discuss these issues as well as your proposals for addressing the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Yvette D Clarke
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 8, 2017

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding my designation as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the set-top box proceeding, and the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on "Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video Programming."

Because I do not believe that the set-top box *Order* circulated by my immediate predecessor furthered the goal of promoting a clear, consumer-focused, fair, and competitive regulatory path for video programming delivery, I removed it from circulation. It is no longer pending before the Commission, and I do not intend to resurrect it.

As for the independent programming proceeding, I share your goal of facilitating competition in the video distribution marketplace and a diverse media. Commission staff are reviewing the record in this proceeding, which closed on February 22, 2017. Once staff have completed this review, they will make a recommendation for next steps. I appreciate your letter submission, and will place it in the docket to be considered as part of our review.

Thank you for your interest in this issue and in addressing the digital divide—I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss my Digital Empowerment Agenda further. Please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance. I look forward to working with you on many important issues at the Commission.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congresswoman, it was terrific seeing you recently at the briefing! Thanks for all your work on FCC-related issues - from the matters described above to AM radio, you've made a much-appreciated mark. Look forward to collaborating with you going forward. (And I loved the dark green velvet jacket!)